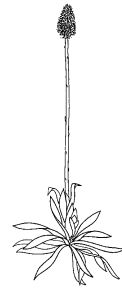


Swamp Pink

Helonias bullata



Description - The swamp pink is a perennial evergreen herb found in scattered populations from New Jersey south to Georgia. Historically, this plant was found from Staten Island, New York to the southern Appalachians. In Virginia, this lily has been documented in four counties. Its bright green, lance-shaped leaves form a basal rosette. A hollow flower stalk rises one to two feet from the center of the rosette and produces a pink or lavender flower head that consists of 30 to 50 small fragrant flowers. Few of the plants in a population produce flowers.

Life History - Swamp pink occurs in a variety of wetland habitats that include bogs, spring seeps, stream edges, wet meadows, and headwater wetlands. Sites are saturated year-round, but are rarely flooded and soils are generally neutral to acidic. Wetland habitat is easily altered through both direct and secondary disturbance. It is difficult for

seedlings to get established and they are particularly vulnerable to human foot traffic. Flowering occurs from March to May. The basal leaves turn reddish-brown in the winter and lie flat on the ground or are slightly raised. These winter leaves are often hidden by fallen leaf litter. Reproduction is primarily asexual and seed dispersal is limited.

Conservation - The swamp pink was federally listed as a threatened species on September 9, 1988 due to population decline and threats to its wetland habitats. Historically, wetland drainage and/or filling associated with urban and agricultural development have been the primary threat to this species. However, with the enactment of the federal Clean Water Act and state wetland legislation, direct habitat loss has been slowed. Secondary effects from activities such as timber clearing, land development, siltation from runoff associated with adjacent development, and agriculture have become the major threat. These activities affect the hydrologic regime and increase the release of sediments and pollution. Plant collection and soil compaction from trampling are also threats to this species.

What You Can Do To Help - If you find a plant that appears to be the swamp pink, take note of the location and photograph the plant, if possible. Please do not remove the plant!

Contact one of the following agencies for assistance:

Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Office of Plant Protection
P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, Virginia 23209
(804) 786-3515

Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation
Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-7951

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
(804) 693-6694

References

Stevens, E.C. 1991. Swamp pink. Pages 88-89 in K. Terwilliger, ed. Virginia's Endangered Species, Proceedings of a Symposium. McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, Virginia.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1991. Swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) recovery plan. Newton Corner, Massachusetts.



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